

Publication Summary



Diagnostic Waiting Times

Monthly data to 31 March 2014

Publication date – 27 May 2014



About this Release

Diagnostic Waiting Times are an important component in the delivery of the 18 Weeks Referral to Treatment standard (a maximum whole journey waiting time of 18 weeks from general practitioner to treatment).

On 31 March 2009, the Scottish Government introduced the waiting time standard that patients waiting for one of the eight key diagnostic tests and investigations would be waiting less than six weeks.

This release details a summary of waiting times for total patients waiting, and those waiting over four, six and nine weeks, for the eight key diagnostic tests and investigations from March 2012 to March 2014.

Key Points

- At 31 March 2014, 95.4% of patients waiting for one of the eight key diagnostic tests and investigations had been waiting less than six weeks. When comparing to the position at 31 March 2013, this has decreased from 96.2%. This may be due to an approximate 15% increase in the total number of patients waiting for a key diagnostic test and investigation.
- The drop in performance has primarily affected patients waiting for a key Endoscopy diagnostic test and investigation. The majority of these patients have been waiting over six weeks to be seen in NHS Grampian, NHS Forth Valley and NHS Fife.
- NHS Boards are currently working towards local targets that patients will wait no longer than four weeks. At 31 March 2014, 87.2% had been waiting less than four weeks. When comparing to the previous year, performance against the local target has decreased from 89.2%.

Background

Information on the following eight key diagnostic tests and investigations waiting times has been collected nationally since 2006:

Endoscopy

- Upper Endoscopy
- Lower Endoscopy (excluding Colonoscopy)
- Colonoscopy
- Cystoscopy

Radiology

- CT Scan
- MRI Scan
- Barium Studies
- Non-obstetric ultrasound

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#)

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